



~Spot Light on Citizen's Panel~

The Grand Traverse County Family Court - Citizen's Panel is a Restorative and Balanced justice program. A partnership with the county prosecutor's office, since Fall 2002, this program diverts certain first-time offenders from the court, offering an opportunity for community members to be involved in the process, while allowing youth to make amends for their offenses through a "Community Promise". This Promise may include community service, writing assignments or projects, based on the youth's strengths. Also required, is obedience to laws, parents and school. An eight week timeline for completion is established, during which time a panel member, will monitor the youth.

If the youth is successful in completing their Promise, they will avoid having a juvenile court record. Three citizen volunteers serve on the panel; members of a trained group of approximately 15-20 volunteers.

When the youth has successfully completed his Promise, the volunteer monitor will submit a report and recommendation for release. The file is then sent back to the Prosecuting Attorney's office who will decline the charge and the juvenile court record will no longer exist.

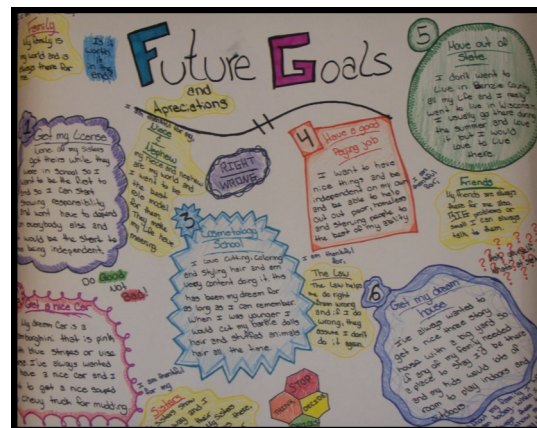
So far in 2014, we have had 5 panels with 16 youth appearing before them. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have participated in this "second chance" program, either by serving as a panel member and/or monitoring a youth. Thank you:

Roy Bernier, Bob Brown, Donna Burnside, Erica Canfield, Jim Dawson, Parker Field, Heather Flannery, Karen Grant, Marie Hanis, Maswe Hennrick, Hilary Hoeflin, Wes Nelson, Marco Pazienza, Katy Ramsdell, Sue Schmidt, Catherine Simons, Dave Speirs, Tate Stewart, Henry Tenbrink, and Mary Jo Zazueta

"From Darkness to Light"



Two of our
 most recent
 Citizen Panel
 projects.





Happy Birthday

May

Sharon Studinger
Libby Robold
Marge Brehmer
Katherine Cipko
Caroll Weeks
Kari Walter
Christine Pion
Lee Storch
Shannon McCullough
James Hartley



June

Barb Winburne
Jean Howell
Barbara Woodruff
Jan Meyer
Darcie Pickren
Carol Wright
Nancy MacDonald
Cynthia Johnson
Deb Aldridge
Chonda Baggerly
Heidi Flores
Siri Salonen
Heather Flannery
Amy Richards
Michelle Bisson
Faye Youker
Marilyn Jensen



Special thanks to volunteer, **Darcy Schlitt**, who has completed her second bulletin board for us in the showcase outside our office. Check out her very artistic creation next time you're in! It's beautiful!

We'd also like to give a special shout out and thank you to **Jeff Glick of DK Security**.

He graciously offered to walk Kathleen, from Literacy Council office, to her car on an icy Wed. morning. Kathleen was parked quite a walking distance from the Hall of Justice. Thank you, Jeff, for your kind gesture!



Have you noticed the bright green stickers on all of the parking meters downtown? See below for the new functions you can access through your smart phone with the Parkmobile app. Visit www.Parkmobile.com for more information.

Paying For Parking Made Simple



Parkmobile
PARKING MADE SIMPLE™



Park.Scan.Go.



Mobile Apps



Find My Car



Parking Alerts



Remote Parking Extensions



New Vision Academy-2014

New Vision Academy is back for the Summer of 2014. We have many exciting classes lined up for our youth on probation including; boater safety, yoga, martial arts, cooking, and another visit from K-9 Officer Kris Makowski.

New Vision Academy is a program that takes place two weeks during the months of June, July and August and is meant to enhance court experience for youth and provide tools for them to make good life choices in the future. Unique, informative, and fun activities will be offered Mon.- Wed. this summer, 9 AM til noon.



Learning Partners are Swimming!



We continue our annual Swim and Water Safety sessions on Friday evenings through May 16th. The students are progressing in their swimming skills, and will soon learn what to do when their canoe tips over, or a friend is in the water calling for help. Just in time for the summer swimming season! We have several first-time swim students this year, and even more grateful parents!

Wrapping up the school year!

We will be sending surveys to the schools in May, checking-in on recommendations for Learning Partner students. Please make sure that Laura knows your plans concerning your student: meeting regularly in the summer, continuing in the fall, or if the student is transitioning out of Learning Partners. We will also be looking for new students for the Fall, so we can “hit the ground running”. Also, please let us know if you would like to support an additional student!

Summer event plans are in the works. Learning Partners will be notified when we have things firmed-up. Please plan to attend our May 6th meeting at 4:00 p.m. Thank you for your monthly reporting!



On **Tues., May 20th**, Mary DeGrazia from the Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council, will join us at our monthly meeting; meetings are held from 4 PM to 6 PM. She will discuss the Literacy Council assessment project which began in March, 2014. This assessment is given to parents involved in neglect and abuse cases. This program was initiated by Judge Stanton, early last year.

Our meeting for **June 17th**, will host Janet Kronk, neglect/abuse case manager in our Family Court Administration Office. She will discuss and answer questions about the Judge and Referee dockets and various types of hearings. Current case study will follow presentations in May and June, as it is helpful to debrief and to share your CASA volunteer experience.

Many thanks to the presenter's of our April CASA meeting; **Judge Michael Stepka, Ref. Kirsten Keilitz, Carol Stocking, District Court Administrator, Pam Blue, District Court Probation Supervisor, and Tom Chapman, Department of Corrections.**

This meeting discussed the “Understanding of Criminal Court Involvement of Respondent -Parents and its Impact on Neglect-Abuse Cases.” The following websites are tools that were offered for your use during this presentation: www.grandtraverse.org and <http://www.13thcircuitcourt.org/>

We have a number of handouts at the office, available for you, upon request.



Upcoming Events!



Due to popular demand, a 2nd free movie has been added—

Thurs. May 15th, 6:00 p.m.

Let Lindsey know if you're interested, and she will email you the registration link.



Save the Date:

Sun. May 18th, 2014

Tickets:

nmc.edu/bbq

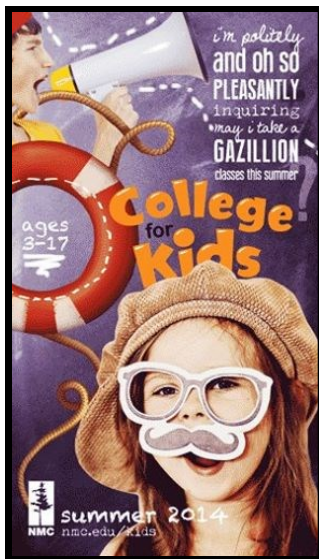
College for Kids 2014

186 learning adventures
in June, July, August

Register:

www.nmc.edu/kids

Ages: 3-17



Nonprofit Board Recruitment Fair

May 28th, 5:00 to 8:00 at Mt. Holiday

United Way of Northwest Michigan has partnered with Mt. Holiday to bring you the first ever Board Recruitment Fair.

Nonprofit agencies will have the opportunity to meet members of the community who are genuinely interested in serving on their Board of Directors.

Questions please contact: Michelle Gallagher

947-3200 x 201

Not too late to register:

Guardian Training

The Michigan Guardianship Association and local experts will present the ABC's of being a guardian and a conservator.

The meetings will begin at 5:15 p.m. at the Hall of Justice, lower level, Multi-Purpose Room.

Tuesday, May 6th and Thursday, May 8th

Call the office to r.s.v.p.-922-4827



Sara Hardy Downtown
Farmers Market

May 3rd-Oct. 25th, 2014

Wed. and Sat. 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



As there is always processing time for the production of newsletters, it is risky to make comments about weather. This is Spring! However in spite of the sun streaming through my window, the temps are in the 30's and I can still see lumps of snow on the ground.

GTALC's joint venture with 13th Circuit Court Family Division is underway. The Court Referral Project has developed 6 referrals, two assessments, and several assessments are scheduled in the near future. Requests for GTALC services have been made. The magic of literacy and intergenerational impact will soon generate positive impacts for all who are involved.

In other venues, GTALC tutors are working with clients at Michigan Works!, Learning Partners, and at a new site, North Country CMH Center in Rapid City.

GTALC's treasurer, Jerry DeGrazia, is leading a new outreach project which centers on businesses that might have employees who may benefit from literacy training. Jerry and his team will make contact with human resource managers at targeted businesses to start a dialogue about literacy and its positive impact on employees.

A good example of this activity is the HR Director from one of the local auto dealerships who contacted our assessment coordinator, Nancy Thompson, about a job candidate who he felt could benefit from tutoring. The candidate is not an employee at the dealership, has been assessed and the tutor match is in process.

On the topic of community support, GTALC has received two donations from disparate sources— a \$500 grant was provided from STAPLES based on the recommendation from employees at the TC STAPLES store, and a check for \$362 was received from Cherryland Middle School students who held a Mexican Fiesta to raise funds for our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson, President GTALC





GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
 MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE
 280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684
 231-922-4827



**Free Fishing Weekend in
 Michigan
 June 7th & 8th, 2014**

PRE-SORT STD.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684
 PERMIT NO. 229

Or Current Resident

*All meeting are held at the Volunteer Services office
 unless otherwise mentioned.

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

**Tuesday, May 6th, 2014
 Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014**



**CASA (Court Appointed Special
 Advocate)- See pg. 3**

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

**Tuesday, May 20th, 2014
 Tuesday, June 17th, 2014**



Literacy Council

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm
 Traverse Area District Library

**Wednesday, May 21st, 2014
 Wednesday, June 18th, 2014**



**Sign up now for these 2 new
 important features to our local
 safety plan.**



Keeping citizens informed.

